हम पर जबर्दस्ती की जा रही है, हमारी बहू-बेटियों को जबर्दस्ती या उनकी शादी की जा रही है या उनका कन्वर्जन किया जा रहा है, इस बात को टालने के लिए जितनी कोशिश शासन की तरफ से हो सकती है, हम बराबर करेंगे ।

*283. [*The questions (Chowdhry Hari Singh) was absent for answer* vide col. 29-30 infra].

Exploration of oil in Pondicherry Coastal area

*284. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to conduct oil exploration in the off-shore areas of Pondicherry Coast in view of the large potential for oil in the region; and

(b) if so, by when the work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Oil and Natural Gas Commission is already conducting oil exploration off the Cuddalore-Pondicherry coast.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I thank the hon. Petroleum Minister for having replied to my question in a positive way. Normally, Sir, a reply given to hon. Members is: No, does not arise. Now it is a positive reply coming from the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So you put a positive question.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Yes, Sir. According to the present estimate, oil reserve in Cauvery basin is 67.68 million tonnes. So far the Government propose to tap oil from the Cauvery basin up to 1994-95 only 2 million tonnes. The total reserve is 67.68 tonnes. Only 2 million tonnes till the end of the 8th Five Year Plan they are planning to tap from that region. Five areas they have selected up to Pondicherry, Cuddalore, Karigkal,, Thanjavur districts and South Arrot district. Sir, a rich oil reserve is there. But in the current Five Year Plan the Government has sanctioned about Rs. 655 crores in the total allocation of Rs. 3800 crores. Sir, as in other sectors, in oil exploration also the southern side is being neglected. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what is the state of oil exploration in Pondicherry and Cuddalore area, whether any encouraging results are coming and when are you going to tap oil from that region?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, Pondicherry and Ariyaur off-shore exploration...

AN HON. MEMBER: Cuddalore, not...

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: I am talking of subbasin. The subbasin to which the hon. Member referred forms part of the Cauvery basin, which is a category-I basin with proven prolific oil reserves and where commercial production has already started Now, Sir, for this basin which constitutes the exploratory effort, as far as Tamil Nadu State is concerned, ONGC has already spent Rs. 1300 crores. The exploration in different categories basins is as per well formalised plan and programmes spaning various Five Year Plans. And I would like to emphatically state that there is no neglect whatsoever as far as the southern States or this particular basin are concerned. Already, Sir, we have 11 on share rigs deployed for drilling in this basin. I am not reading out the names. Three off-shore rigs are operating. We have conducted geological surveys for 20,000 kms, off-shore for 40,000 kms and gravity magnetic surveys for 15,000 kms. On on-land 118 wells have already been drilled at 42 prospects Twenty-six wells have proved to be oil or gas bearing. In the off-shore area a total of 42 wells have been drilled in 19 prospects. Nine wells on 3 prospects are hydro-carbon bearing.

As regards the specific area of the Pondicherry coast, 5 wells have been drilled, in two, drilling is still going on. Unfortunately, in the exploration effort so far, no hydro-carbon reserve has been established. But exploration is still being carried on. And I would like to assure the hon. Member that there will be no let-up in the exploratory effort not only off Pondicherry but also the Cauvery basin or any of the basins in the Southern India or the whole of the country.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, in the 8th Five-Year Plan, the total estimated demand for oil is 80 million tonnes. The local production according to the estimate, will be 50 million tonnes. So far, we have reached the target of only 32 million tonnes up to this year. Sir, the investment on oil exploration is much less when compared to the demand which is arising in our country. Sir, the Government has to spend Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 13,000 crores a year by way of foreign exchange for importing oil. Therefore, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they have got any plan of action at least to reach the 78 per cent target for the purpose of meeting the local demand. Sir, part (b) of my question is whether they are going to involve foreign companies in oil exploration work. Then, coming to part (c) of my question, Sir, gas is being let off, and it is being burnt. This is a very serious matter. Gas worth thousands of crores of rupees is being burnt, and it is not being utilised in our country. It is being seen in the Bombay High and the Cauvery Basin. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they are going to bring out a plan for the purpose of utilising the gas which is being burnt and wasted.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, the demand for oil in terms of crude oil equivalent is 54 million tonnes per annum as of now. And our production is around 34 million tonnes per annum. There is a gap of 20 million tonnes per annum in crude oil, and about 10 million tonnes per annum in petroleum products, necessitating a foreign exchange outgo in terms of the import bill of about Rs. 13,000 to Rs. 15,000 crores this year. This is a fact. This demand-supply gap is also expected to increase; this is also a fact.

Sir, the Ministry is engaged in planning and implementing an accelerated exploration programme which will ensure that this demand-supply gap is minimised or reduced to the maximum extent possible.

AN HON. MEMBER: How?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, already 8 to 9 major projects have been sanctioned in the Bombay High as well as in the southern India, in Ravva in Andhra Pradesh and so on, with an outlay of more than Rs. 12,000 crores which, when implemented during the 8th Plan period, are expected to enhance production of oil by about 14 million tonnes per annum. Of course, this is dependent on these projects being implemented on time schedule. And that again is dependent on the availability of resources as well as the availability and allocation of free foreign exchange. Also Sir, this Ministry has taken a very major initiative by offering for exploration by Indian and foreign oil companies, 7? blocks all over the country. The international bidding is taking place, and the bids are expected to come in by February In another 18 months, a very major historic exploration effort will commence throughout the country. And depending on the finding of oil and gas, this new offer is also expected to add to the 1 million tonnes—about which I am talking —end the addition may perhaps hopefully fructify towards the end of the 8th Plan period. As regards the second part of the question... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, gas is being burnt and a thousand crores of rupees are being wasted.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: As regards the second part of the question... (*Interruptions*). If the Members will me to answer... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI P. UPENDRA: We have to ask about Godavari basin.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: It is true that about 30 per cent of gas produced in Bombay High is being flared. It is the

simplistic to say that this is the fault of the Government. It is because we do not have the adequate resources for the infrastructure...

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Is that the only place where you are flaring the gas?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Of course in Assam and other places also it is flared. But basically, 80 per cent of the gas is produced in Bombay High; so large scale flaring also takes place there. We have now launched a World Bank-aided project of Rs. 7500 crores by which the flaring will be reduced to zero, by 1994.

SHRI M. PALANIYANDI: Tiruchirappalli also comes under Cauvery basin. I want to know whether the Government will do this oil exploration in that area.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): I must thank the hon. Member He has asked a very relevant question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They always ask very relevant questions. Members always ask very relevant questions and Ministers also give relevant answers.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: May I say that the question pertains to the exploratory activities of the Cauvery basin. Now we have jumped from Cauvery to Bombay High and to Godavari...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is from Tamil Nadu.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Gas is being burnt in Cauvery also.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The hon. Member asked about exploratory activities in Tiruchirappalli. It is already in the exploratory zone and exploration work is on in Tiruchirappalli.

श्री मोहम्मद खलीलुर रहमान : जनाब चेयरमैन साहब, हिन्दुस्तान का मशरीकी साहिल बड़ा लंबा है और सर्वे से यह जाहिर हुआ है कि इस मशरीकी साहिल पर तेल के काफी ज़खायर मौजूद हैं । चुनांचे इस सिलसिले में सर्वे भी इंतिहाई तफसील के साथ किया गया है। मैं आनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहब से जानना चाहूंगा कि गोदावरी और कृष्णा बेसिन में भी क्या तेल के ज़खायर मौजूद हैं और अगर मौजूद हैं तो हुकूमत क्या उन ज़खायर से तेल निकालने की पूरी कोशिश कर रही है ?

†[شری محمد خلیل الرحمان :

جناب چیرمین صاحب - هندوستان کا مشرقی ساحل بڑا لمبا ہے اور سروے سے یہ ظاہر ہوا ہے کہ اس مشرقی ساحل پر تیل کے کافی ذخائر موجود ہیں - چنانچہ اس سلسلہ میں سروے بھی انتہائی تفصیل کے ساتھ کیا گیا ہے - میں آنریبل منسٹر صاحب سے جاننا چاہوں گا کہ گوداوری اور کرشنا بیسن میں بھی کیا تیل کے ذخائر موجود ہیں اور اگر موجود ہیں تو حکومت کیا ان ذخائر سے تیل نکالنے کی پوری کوشش کر رہی ہے -

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, exploratory effort has been taking place in Krishna-Godavari basin of Andhra Pradesh. As a result of these efforts, so far, 37 wells—on 19 prospects have produced oil and gas during testing; 24 wells on high prospects proved to be commercial hydro-carbon in the offshore area. Presently, ten on land rigs are deployed in the basin. As on date 52 locations on land and 24 off-shore locations in the Cauvery basin have been identified for drilling.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: I admire the knowledge of the Petroleum Minister giving the whole spectrum of petroleum. But the thrust of the question is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question should be on Cauvery.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: He is the victim of Cauvery waters.

†[ ]Transliteration in Arabic script.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not water; oil I said.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: I am not speaking of water; I am speaking of oil.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When they said 'water' I said 'no, he is talking of Cauvery basin oil.'

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Actually, our foreign exchange flow has been raised from Rs. 6000 crores a couple of years ago to Rs. 15,000 crores, as admitted by the Minister himself. With this background in view, what are the steps being taken by the Ministry? The Minister has talked about what they are going to do in the Eighth Five-Year Plan, etc. He has shown his knowledge on the subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question should be direct.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: It should be taken up on a war-footing. There is so much of foreign exchange outflow. Therefore, what steps are being taken to increase the indigenous production? How much funds have been diverted for this purpose? How much attention are you paying to this? This is the thrust of the question. We know what is in the Eighth Plan. In the usual course...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has tried to explain it.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: In view of the urgency of saving foreign exchange in view of the urgency of increasing crude oil production in the country, what steps the Ministry has taken? This is my question. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the hon. Member is concerned, rightly concerned, about...

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: All are rightly concerned.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Specially, Mr. Hanumanthappa: In

AN HON. MEMBER: He is from Karnataka.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: In the oil sector, there is no concept of doing anything on a war-footing. There is nothing like doing anything on a war-footing.

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: A war is already going on, on Cauvery.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: That war I am not concerned with, at the moment.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: The Gulf War has put you a war-footing. You have to think of doing it on a war-footing. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: We have to step up oil production. We have to step up not only oil production. We have also to save oil, in view of the foreign exchange outflow. May I say that we have been producing oil and that we are self-reliant to the extent of 60 per cent our total requirements? We have been importing oil. Unfortunately, during the last two years, the production has gone down a little. We are taking all steps to see that the crude oil production goes up.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: All steps!

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगी कि तेल प्राप्ति की संभावना को ध्यान में रखकर विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में तेल की खोज का काम ओ०एन०जी०सी० निरन्तर करती है। वहां से मिलने वाले तेल की मात्रा को सामने रखकर उन क्षेत्रों का वर्गीकरण ए०वी०सी०डी० जॉन के नाम से किया जाता है। मेरा पहला प्रश्न यह है कि पांडिचेरी में प्राथमिक खोज के आधार पर आपने तेल की क्या संभावना पाई है और उसको किस वर्गीकरण जोन में रखा है ? इसके साथ-साथ मैं यह जानना चाहूंगी कि बहुत बार अन्वेषण के बाद तेल की कोई बूंद भी हमारे हाथ नहीं लगती। जैसा बंगाल बेसिन की खोज में हुआ है। इसमें लगभग 200 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किये गये, यह मैं जानकारी के आधार पर कह सकती हूं। लेकिन तेल की एक बूंद भी हमारे हाथ में नहीं लगी। पांडिचेरी में क्या वैसा तो नहीं होने वाला

है ? पांडिचेरी में कितने तेल की संभावना आपने आज तक प्राथमिक खोज के आधार पर पाई है ? ये मेरे प्रश्न हैं जो मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहती हूं ।

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: As regards the Cauvery Basin, on the basis of the surveys and exploratory efforts so far, a total of 70 million tonnes of reserves have been established. The exploratory effort is an ongoing process. The Cauvery basin has five sub-basins. I have already said that, in the case of Pondicherry offshore, the exploratory effort has, so far, not produced any evidence of hydrocarbon reserves. Exploration is going on. Exploration is going on in all the five sub-basins of the Cauvery Basin.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: She has asked whether it is A, B, C, D or E.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : संभावना क्या है और पांडिचेरी किस वर्गीकरण जोन में आता है ?

श्री सभापति : जो है ही नहीं तो वर्गीकरण किस का होगा ।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : इसके माने यह हुए कि वह "इ" में है ।

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: I have already said that the entire Cauvery Basin is categoried as Category I Basin.

Projects to clean the Ganga water

*285. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:†

Will the Minister of ENVIORNMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in regard to various projects undertaken to clean the Ganga Waters and make it free from pollution; and

(b) the extent to which it has helped in conserving and preserving the environment and improving afforestation

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Out of 261 schemes undertaken under the on-going phase of Ganga Action Plan (GAP), 173 schemes had been completed till 31st October, 1991. The completed schemes include 53 schemes of Interception & Diversion, 7 of Sewage Treatment, 39 of Low Cost Sanitation, 19 of Electric Crematorium, 30 of River Front & Ghat Development and 25 Schemes of Miscellaneous category. These schemes account for diversion of 405 million litres per day (mld) of waste water against a target of 873 mld. Wherever diversion and pollution abatement works have been completed, there is an indication of improvement in the water quality of the river. Tree plantation is being encouraged using raw swage.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Sir, first, on a point of correction. The total schemes are 262 and not 261. U.P. has 106, Bihar has 45, West Bengal has 111, taking them to 262.

Now, under the Ganga Action Plan, purification of the most sacred of the sacred river, was a dream and vision of Rajivji. If we succeed in this Ganga Action Plan, no other monument will be necessary to perpetuate his memory and I

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare.